

Executive Officer's Summary Report
9:00 a.m., May 5, 2011
Wharfinger Building
#1 Marina Way
Eureka, California

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: Regulatory Program for Waste Discharges from Dairies in the North Coast Region

DISCUSSION

This is an informational item. Regional Water Board staff will be presenting an update on progress towards developing a regulatory program for waste discharges from dairies in the North Coast Region. The last presentation to the Regional Water Board on this topic was in January 2011.

There are approximately 150 dairies in the north coast region. Regional Water Board staff are developing a regulatory program for waste discharges from dairies in the region in compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act and associated Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Rules, California Water Code, and the State Water Board's Nonpoint Source Policy. The north coast dairy program will include tiered regulatory options:

- a federal National Pollution Discharge System (NPDES) permit,
- General Waste Discharge Requirements (GWDR), and
- a Conditional Waiver of GWDRs.

Since January, staff has developed draft permits and waivers and a draft California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study and Checklist.

Staff will provide an overview of the draft permits and waivers and discuss preliminary feedback received from meetings with stakeholders. The draft permits, waiver, and CEQA documentation will be released to the State Clearinghouse and interested parties for a 45-day public review in mid-May. The north coast dairy regulatory program is scheduled to be considered for adoption by the Regional Water Board at the August 2011 Board meeting in Santa Rosa.

PRELIMINARY

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: This is an informational item only.